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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Repercussions of Ho Chi Minh's Appeal in South-eastern Asia

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Ho Chi Minh's appeal for a suspension of hostilities has had a resounding effect, not only throughout all of Indochina but through all the rest of southeastern Asia as well. Two countries, in particular, have been especially concerned with the evolution that may take place, as a result of these overtures: that is, Thailand and Malaysia*. [redacted] the "rotting away" of the Thai country and Northern Laos can only work in favor of a military truce, presently to be concluded.
 2. Even if Vo Nguyen Giap's forces should not be established on the Mekong River, Vietminh would speedily make its influence felt there. The great river would then be a fragile "curtain of water" to protect Thailand from Communist infiltration into its eastern provinces. Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap are well aware that they can keep their military forces standing in their present positions, without in the least hampering the formidable subversive system that they have set up.
- 25X6 Subversion does not have to worry about boundary lines.

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Every success of the French Expeditionary Corps helps weaken the morale of the Malay rebels. The latter have long believed in an eventual victory of Vietminh. They have, therefore, exhausted themselves in guerrilla warfare, to such an extent that Chang Peng, head of the Malayan Communists, has had to slow down military operations. In addition to that, he has even been forced to condemn certain forms of terrorism. Huddled together in the jungle, the Malayan Communists are now carrying on guerrilla war only within a limited district around Johore, Perak and Pahang. Even this fight is more or less a symbol and is hardly disturbing.

5. Chang Peng has, in fact, been forced to adopt a policy of clandestine penetration into the syndicates and into the Chinese community of the Peninsula. In abandoning armed conflict, he himself recognizes the check suffered by his rebellion. He can certainly help corrupt the nationalist organizations of the Left, but that is a long job,

-end-

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